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SRI A. M. ALLAPICHAI :—" Will the Central Government return to us the eighty lakhs of rupees which the State Government have already spent? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" After all, this eighty lakhs of rupees is nothing when compared to the capital investment of sixty crores of rupees that will be required for working this project. So, this Government do not think it worth while to ask for this eighty lakhs of rupees back."

Use of Government Transport buses for Avadi Session

* 216 *Q.*—SRI V. GURUNANDAN ROW : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state whether and, if so, how many Government Transport buses operating in the City of Madras and in the mufassal were taken away from their usual routes in connexion with the Avadi Session of the Indian National Congress?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Government buses were not taken away from the usual routes in the City or mufassal to meet the traffic between Madras and Avadi. However two of the spare buses of the Government Transport were operated between Egmore and Avadi on the first day of the open session of the Indian National Congress to meet the rush of traffic to Avadi. They performed only one trip each. On other days, no bus of the Government Transport was operated between Madras and Avadi."

SRI K. BHASHYAM :—" Is it a fact that all spare buses belonging to companies operating in the mufassal were requisitioned and brought to the City for the purpose of being used in connexion with the Avadi Congress? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Yes, Sir. Some of the companies were asked to spare their buses which were in very good condition."

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SRI K. BHASHYAM :—" On what basis? Did the Government incur any expenditure on this account? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" The Government did not incur any expenditure but we fixed the rates to be charged for carrying passengers to and fro Avadi."

SRI K. BHASHYAM :—" Is it a fact that persons owning these spare buses had to find their own money for the purpose of transporting them to Madras running a risk of losing good profits which they might have earned otherwise? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" They very gladly co-operated with the Government in their endeavour to see that the public were provided with necessary facilities. The question of profit or loss does not arise at all."

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SRI K. BHASHYAM :—" I want to know whether these mufassal bus-owners got any profit at all or whether they incurred any loss." 3-10 p.m.

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" I do not think they could have made any profit at all. Only normal charges were collected."

SRI V. GURUNANDAN ROW :—" May I ask the Government whether any request was made by the Indian National Congress that such spare buses from the mufassal should be diverted to Avadi or whether the Government took that action of their own accord? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" I have already answered this question. There was nothing on the part of the Indian National Congress or any organization to ask for the provision of buses for going to Avadi. Government thought that it was their responsibility to serve the public and therefore they required the help of private operators who very gladly co-operated with the Government by sparing their buses without minding the inconvenience caused and the loss that would have accrued."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Are the Government aware of the fact that public opinion is that in the matter of transport and traffic arrangement during the Avadi Session of the Congress, the Government did very well? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Yes, Sir, may I thank Dr. John for that? " (Laughter.)

SRI A. M. ALLAPICHAI :—" Whenever there is religious festival in a temple or some such thing, do the Government if necessary divert these buses to that particular place, in the nature of things, to cope with the increased traffic? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" To Kodambakam we divert our buses, if necessary, if more buses are required. Otherwise unless it be for compelling reasons, we do not divert our buses."

[*Note*.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

III.—POINT OF INFORMATION *RE* THE UNION PRESIDENT'S ASSENT TO BILLS PASSED BY BOTH THE HOUSES OF THE LEGISLATURE.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" On a point of information, Sir, when looking into the old proceedings of the legislature, I find that whenever assent has been given to a Bill passed by the two Houses of the Legislature by the Governor or the Governor-General (now President), the announcement of such assent is to be made in the Houses of the Legislature. I do not know why that procedure is not followed now. I want that convention should be followed, viz., of making such announcement in the House when the Houses of